



WOMEN AND GAMBLING RELATED HARM

Professor Amanda Roberts

30th October 2023

Introduction

Background:

- Placing something of value, (usually money) on an event (often a game), of which the outcome is uncertain, in the hope of gaining something of greater value.
- Prevalence approximately **50-60%** (UK).
- Significant harms at individual, community, and societal levels.



Introduction

Women and Gambling:

- Previous ratio **2:1** (male to female).
- Upward trend in women's gambling and harmful gambling.
- Gambling rates now almost equivalent for men and women **(45%)**.
- Bingo, lottery, scratchcards, fruit machines, online.
- Problem Gambling: **0.3%**; Moderate Risk: **0.9%**.
- Distinct clinical profile.





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WOMEN AND GAMBLING HARMS

Introduction

Interpersonal harms:

- Marital dissatisfaction, reduced family stability, the worsening of intimate relationships & family dysfunction.
- **Intimate partner violence (IPV):** *Dowling et al., (2014)- 38% and 37%.*
- Stress related to gambling problems may manifest within the home/ interpersonal relationships.
- **Victims may use gambling as a coping mechanism.**



Introduction

Interpersonal harms:

- Limited nationally representative samples (Afifi et al., 2010; Bland et al., 1993; Liao, 2008).
- Help problem gambling treatment services **tailor intervention and treatment programmes** for their clients.
- Data from the U.S. National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (**NESARC**); which is a large and representative U.S. survey conducted in 2000-01 (**wave 1**) and 2004-05 (**wave 2**).

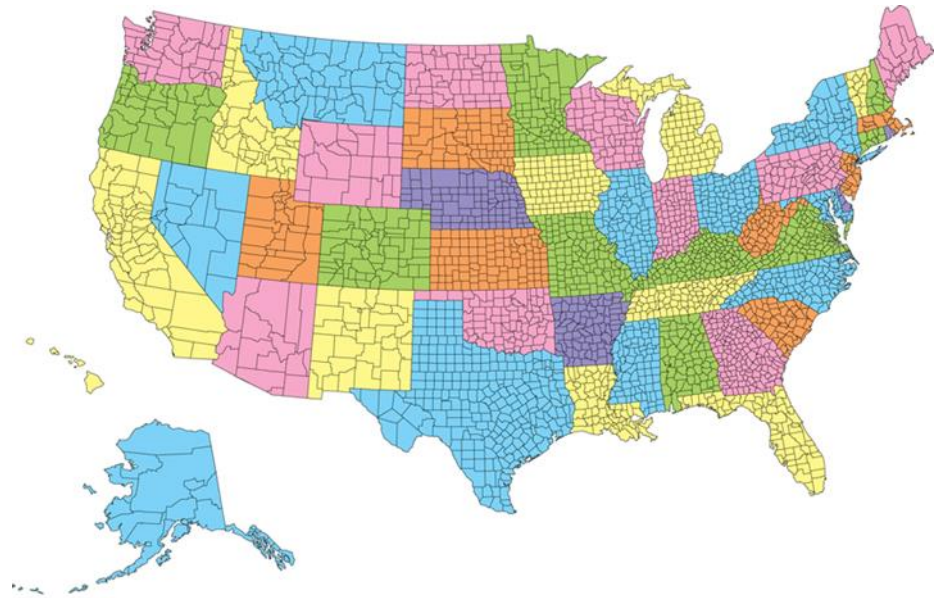
Interpersonal Harms

Method:

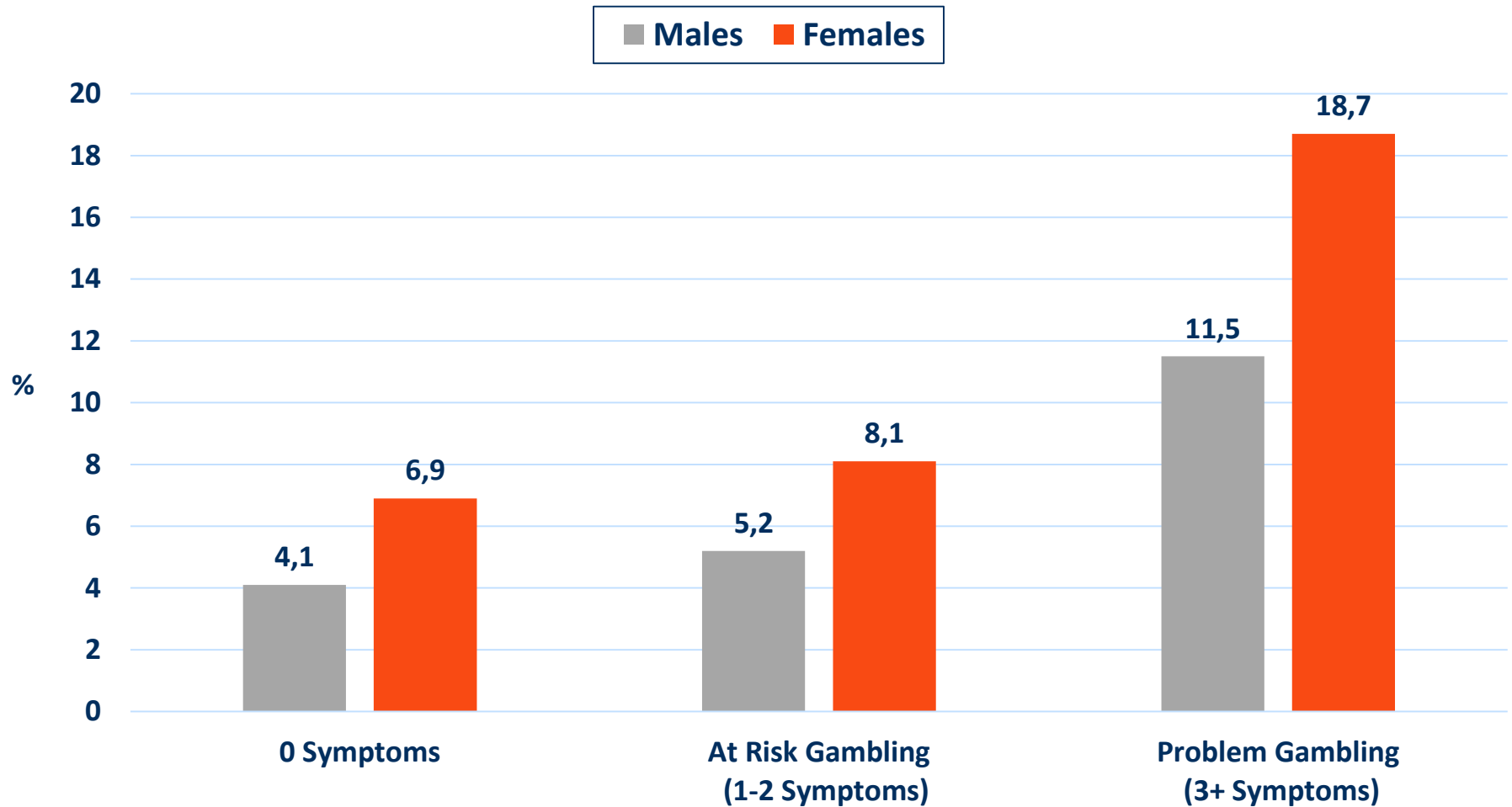
- Sample: 25,631
Males (n=11,782)
Females (n=13,843).

Measures:

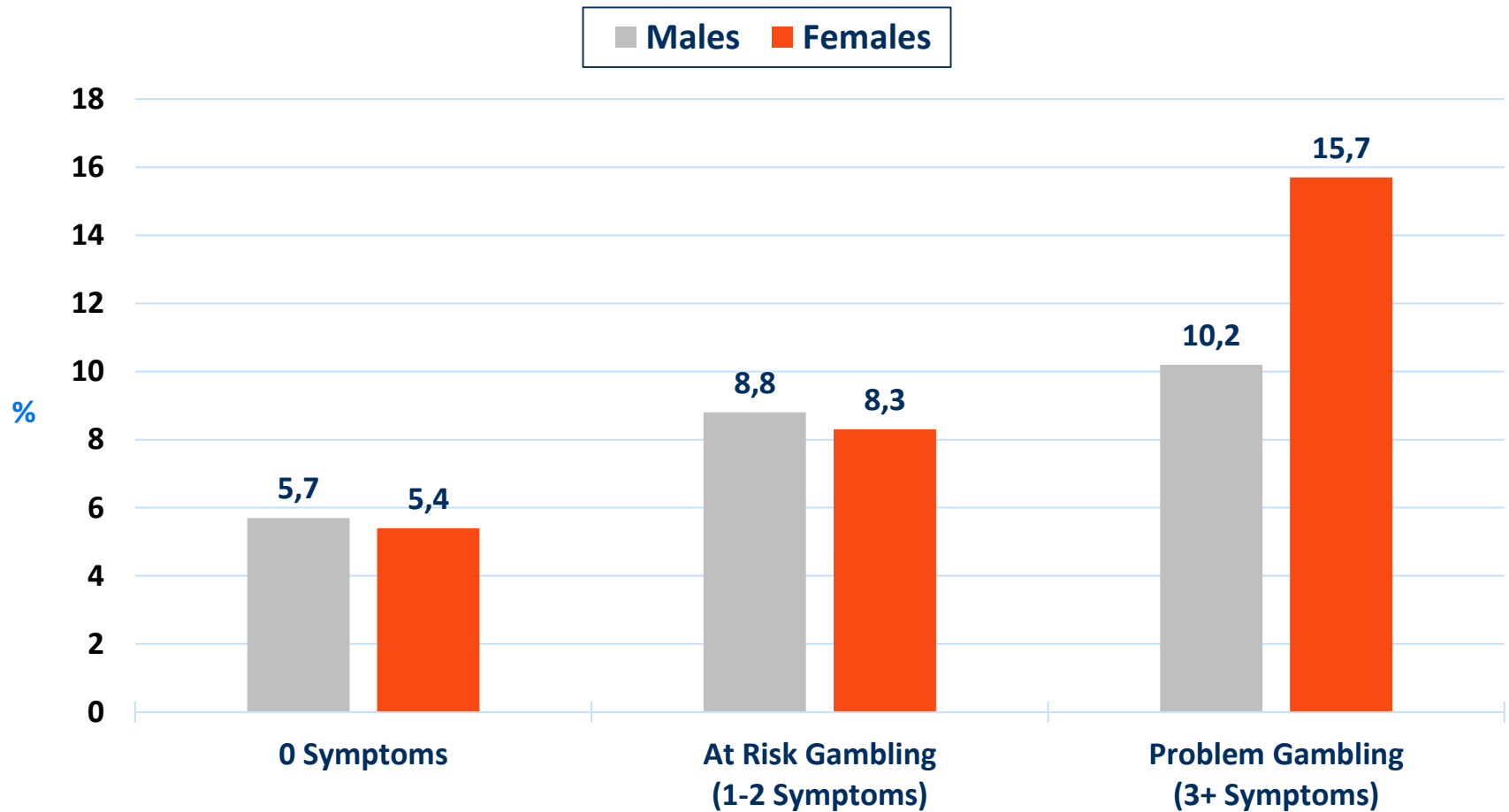
- **Gambling:** Alcohol Use Disorder and Associated Disability Interview Schedule-DSM-IV Version (AUDADIS-IV).
- **IPV victimisation and perpetration:** Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS), Form R.



Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence Perpetration and Gambling



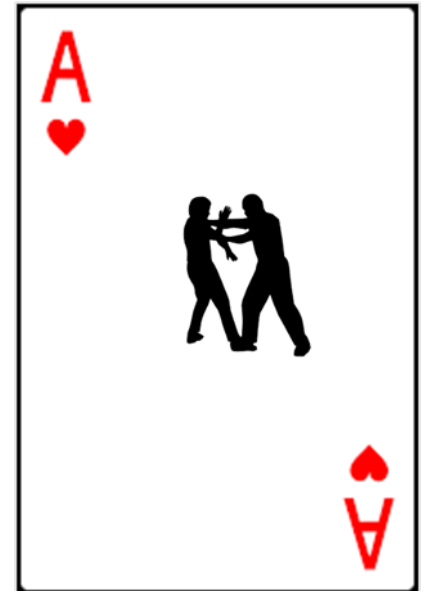
Prevalence of Interpersonal Violence Victimisation and Gambling



Interpersonal harms

Findings:

- Confirmed strong links between problematic gambling and IPV.
- Interpersonal implications of gambling problems.
- Strain and tension associated with the harms of problem gambling can lead to stress and antagonism that is directed towards others.
- The need for problem gambling treatment services to remain vigilant for both IPV perpetration and victimisation.





Intimate Partner Violence in Treatment Seeking Problem Gamblers

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Abstract

The co-occurrence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and gambling disorder is an emerging area of research but no studies, as yet, have examined these within a gambling treatment-seeking population from the UK. In a sample of 204 patients, the study utilised routine clinical data and the Jellinek–Inventory for assessing Partner Violence (J-IPV) to determine the prevalence of IPV perpetration and victimisation. 20.1% of participants reported any IPV in the past year; 12.3% reported perpetration and 14.1% reported victimisation in the past year. Clinical scores were greater among patients disclosing IPV; higher anxiety and depression scores coupled with victimisation, alongside greater problem gambling severity; age, anxiety, depression and debt scores among those reporting IPV perpetration. There is need for enhanced vigilance and first-line responses to IPV in problem gambling treatment services. There is also a need for professional support for the clinicians working with these clients.

Keywords Gambling · Disordered gambling · Interpersonal violence · Mental health · Treatment

Introduction

Significant numbers of gamblers encounter related problems across personal, family and vocational domains, with approximately 7.3% of adults in Great Britain reporting at least some problematic behaviours or harms annually, with a 0.7% categorised as problem gamblers (Wardle et al. 2011).

Individuals with gambling problems experience substantial difficulties in relationships (Cowlishaw et al. 2016; Dowling et al. 2009; Hodgins et al. 2007). These include occurrences of intimate partner violence (IPV) (e.g. Dowling et al. 2018; Korman et al. 2008; Roberts et al. 2016, 2018; Suomi et al. 2013, 2018), which can refer to physical or sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercive tac-

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Gambling and Physical Intimate Partner Violence: Results From the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC)

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Background and Objectives: Links between intimate partner violence (IPV) and gambling problems are under researched in general population samples. Understanding these relationships will allow for improved identification and intervention. We investigated these relationships and sought to determine whether links were attenuated by axis I and II disorders.

Methods: This study examined data from waves 1 and 2 (N = 25,631) of the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions (NESARC), a nationally representative survey of U.S. adults. Gambling symptoms and other psychiatric disorders were measured at wave 1 by the Alcohol Use Disorder and Associated Disability Interview Schedule-DSM-IV Version (AUDADIS-IV).

BACKGROUND

Gambling Disorder describes a general class of behavioral addiction, characterized by enduring maladaptive behavior that can lead to family, social, personal, or recreational pursuits being disrupted or damaged.^{1,2} Interpersonal harms/subsane effects on families, and studies have documented associations with problematic or disordered gambling and relationship difficulties including marital dissatisfaction,³ reduced family stability,⁴ the worsening of intimate relation-



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Gambling and negative life events in a nationally representative sample of UK men

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RESEARCH REPORT

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Gambling and violence in a nationally representative sample of UK men

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aims The relationship between violence and problem gambling in general population samples is under-researched and requires further attention to inform treatment and prevention efforts. We investigated the relationship between gambling problems and violence among men and sought to determine if the link can be accounted for by

research snapshot
summarize mobilize

Intimate partner violence in patients seeking treatment for problem gambling

What this research is about
Problem gambling is when someone experiences harm and distress because of their gambling behavior. People who have problem gambling often experience mental health issues such as anxiety or depression. They may also have other personal problems, such as difficulties with their finances, work, or relationships.

Some people who have problem gambling experience major difficulties with their relationships. Relationship problems can include intimate partner violence (IPV), a key physical, sexual, or psychological aggression from one intimate partner to another. Research shows that IPV may be common among people with problem gambling. However, not too much has been examined (IPV) among people seeking treatment for problem gambling. Of these studies have been done outside of the United Kingdom (UK). This is the first study to look at IPV in people who are seeking problem gambling treatment in the UK.

What the researchers did
The researchers based their study on routine data collected from patients who were seeking treatment from the National Problem Gambling Clinic (NPGC) from March to October 2016. The NPGC is part of the National Health Service (NHS). All patients completed questionnaires prior to meeting with a clinician. In total, 200 patients consented to the use of their data (20% men and 80% women).

What the researchers found
First, participants completed the Problem Gambling Severity Index (P-GSI). The P-GSI is a scale that measures problem gambling severity in the past year. Items range from 0 (no signs of problem gambling) to 10 (very severe problem gambling). Based on

What you need to know
People who have problem gambling may experience difficulties in many aspects of their lives, including their relationships. Relationship problems can include intimate partner violence (IPV). IPV is a physical, sexual, or psychological aggression from one intimate partner to another. IPV may be common among people with problem gambling. This study measured how common IPV was in patients who were seeking treatment for problem gambling in the UK.

A total of 200 participants completed questionnaires about their gambling behavior and mental health. The data answered questions about their experience with IPV, specifically whether or not they had experienced IPV in their relationship. Participants who reported IPV had higher anxiety and depression levels than participants who did not. Some of the participants who reported IPV were also seeking treatment for problem gambling. The researchers found that 20% of participants were men who were seeking problem gambling treatment.

What the researchers concluded
The researchers concluded that problem gambling is associated with IPV. The IPV factor was one of the most important factors in the study. The researchers also found that the relationship between problem gambling and IPV was stronger in men than in women. The researchers also found that the relationship between problem gambling and IPV was stronger in people who were seeking treatment for problem gambling than in people who were not seeking treatment for problem gambling.

research impact
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WOMEN IN TREATMENT

Gambling Support in the UK

Services:

- GamCare.
- Gamblers Anonymous.
 - NHS Treatment:
 - National Problem Gambling Clinic
 - Northern/ Southern Gambling Service.
- Gordon Moody.



Gordon Moody Association:

Women's Service

- Inpatient residential Treatment since **1971**.
- Only specifically gambling-focussed residential clinic in UK.
- **12** weeks programme- CBT based.
- Treatment for 6 weeks.
- Trauma, adverse childhood experiences, domestic abuse, guilt and shame, parenting, personality disorders and substance misuse.



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MOODY**

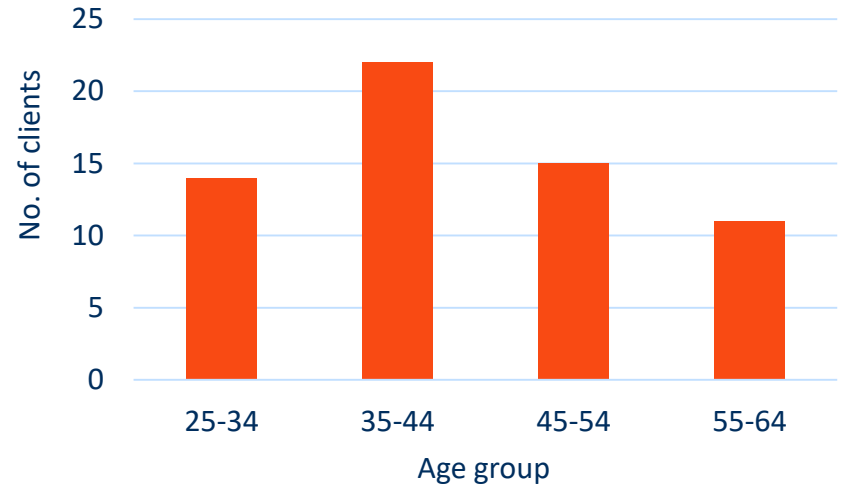
Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
<p>The Cycle of Change</p> <p>What needs to change?</p> <p>The Cycle of Gambling</p> <p>Barriers to Change</p> <p>Change and Resistance</p> <p>Safer Internet Use</p> <p>Letter to Self</p>	<p>Assertiveness</p> <p>Negative core beliefs</p> <p>Behaviour chains and reducing risk</p> <p>Triggers and High-Risk Situations</p> <p>Guilt & Shame</p> <p>Surviving Trauma</p> <p>TA Ego states</p> <p>Identity: The story of Rita</p>	<p>Unhelpful thinking habits</p> <p>Stories and Heroes</p> <p>Living your Values</p> <p>Budgeting Skills</p> <p>Distorted thinking</p> <p>Slips and near misses</p> <p>Visualising Recovery</p> <p>Confidence Building</p>	<p>Mindful communication in relationships</p> <p>Women's roles</p> <p>Warning signs and Trap Doors</p> <p>Developing support</p> <p>Letter to future friends</p> <p>Continuous Recovery</p>

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Female applicants between Nov 2021 - June 2023



Age of clients attending female residential service



Most common gambling styles (all applicants)

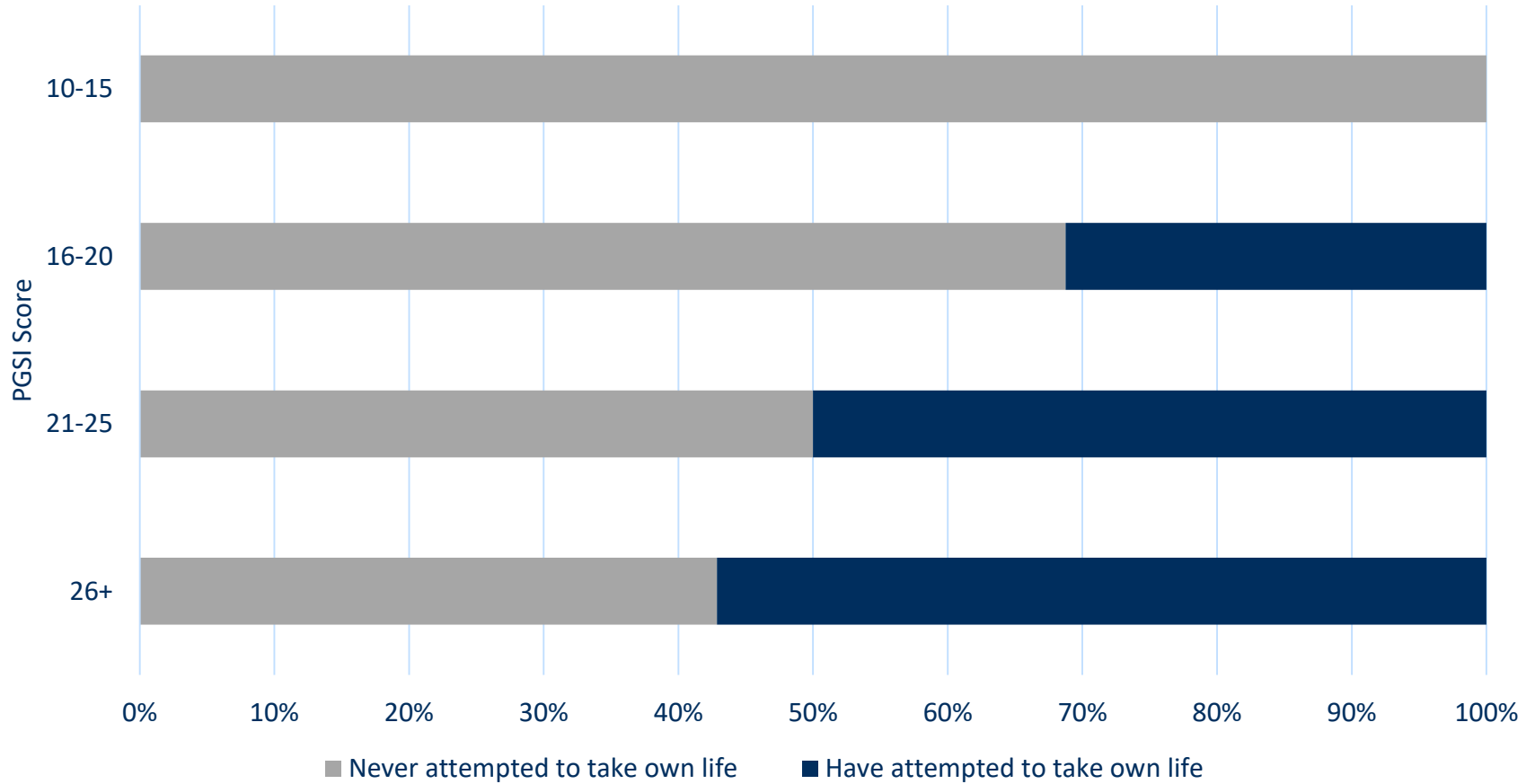
Women (n=249)	Fixed Odds Betting Terminals: 64%	Online Casino (slots): 39%	Online Bingo: 10%
	Men (n=733)	Fixed Odds Betting Terminals: 47%	Bookmakers - Sports events: 25%

Ethnicity of clients attending female residential service

Ethnicity	GM	UK
White British	88.7%	74.4%
Asian, Asian British: Indian	0%	7.7%
White European	0%	7.1%
Black, Black British	3.2%	4%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	3.2%	2.1%
Any other ethnic group	1.6%	4.7%

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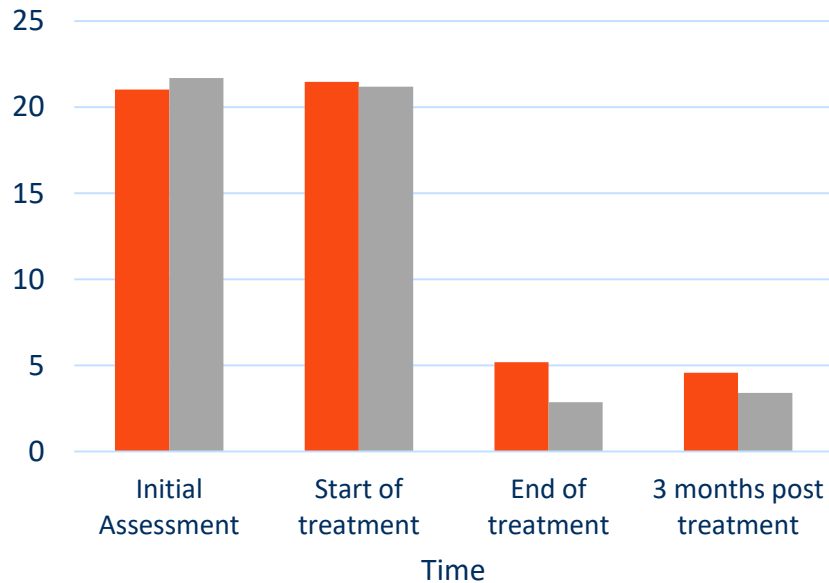
Suicide risk:



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Women's Service Comorbidities:

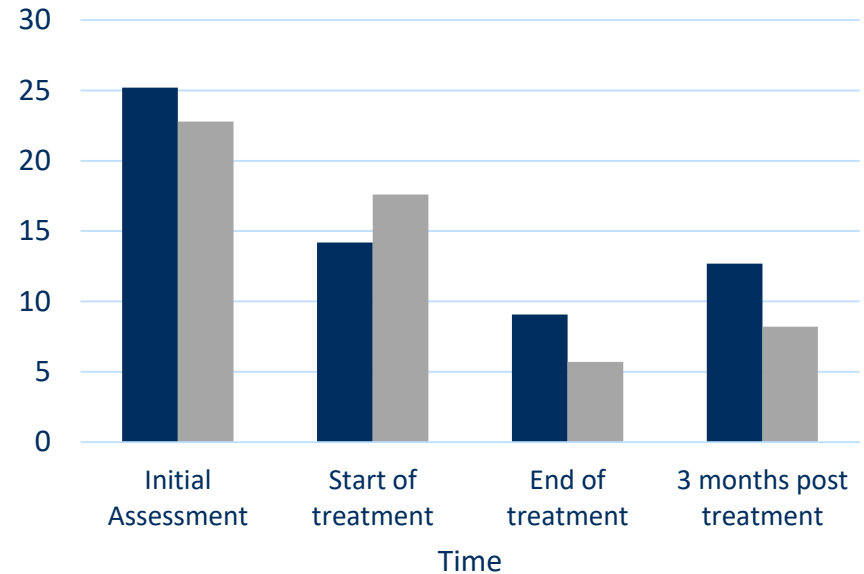
PGSI= Disordered Gambling



■ Women's residential

■ Men's residential

Core-10 score= Psychological Distress



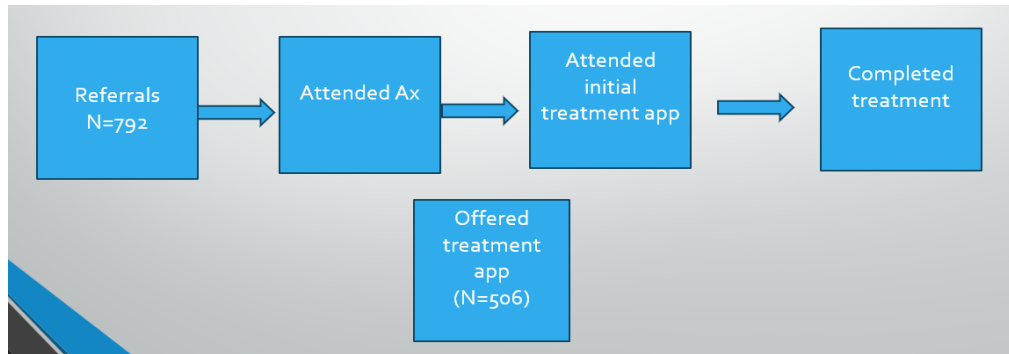
■ Women's residential

■ Men's residential

National Problem Gambling Clinic:

Female Client Referrals 2020-2022:

- Treats people living in England aged 13+ who are experiencing gambling harms.
- Psychological support offered in the form of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and psychodynamic psychotherapy.



National Problem Gambling Clinic:

Female Clients:

Average age		Significance test*
Women	40.6	t(790)=0.00; p<0.05
Men	36.7	

Average age of first gambling experience		Significance test*
Women	31.1	t(467) = 0.00; p <0.05
Men	22.8	

Average months of gambling career		Significance test*
Women	77.4	t(753) = 0.0004; p <0.05
Men	133.1	

National Problem Gambling Clinic:

Initial PGSI	
Women	20.6
Men	19.4

Initial CORE		Significance test*
Women	23.2	t(335) = 3.94 p = 0.05
Men	18.8	

Initial PHQ-9		Significance test*
Women	16.8	t(290) = 3.47, p < 0.05
Men	13.4	

Women and Gambling

Conclusion:

- Upward trend in women's gambling and problematic gambling internationally.
- Changes in the gambling landscape.
- Gambling appears to function as a coping strategy for an underlying vulnerabilities.
- Possible telescoping?
- Risk of Gambling-related Harm such as IPV.
- Higher rates of psychological comorbidity.
- Good treatment compliance, but **much** more work needed.



Contact Details and Acknowledgements:

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